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Message Text

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73
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 DIWY-01 IO-10 H-02 SAJ-01 /044 W
---------- 093520
R 041445Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1453
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT DA US
SUBJ: ANGELA DAVIS VISIT IN COPENHAGEN

REF: COPENHAGEN 2481

SUMMARY: ON THE LAST DAY OF ANGELA DAVIS' VISIT TO DENMARK SHE PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY AND PUBLICLY ASSOCIATED THE AMERICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (CPUSA) WITH ITS DANISH COUNTER-PART. END SUMMARY.

1) CONTRARY TO THE OBSERVATION IN REFTEL, ANGELA DAVIS DID PUBLICLY ASSOCIATE HERSELF WITH THE DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY ON THE LAST DAY OF HER VISIT IN DENMARK (AUGUST 28). SHE SPOKE WITH PARTY LEADERS, INCLUDING CHAIRMAN KNUD JESPERSEN, POUL EMANUEL AND INGMAR WAGNER AND MET WITH THE ASSEMBLED STAFFS OF THE PARTY ITSELF AND OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY DAILY, LAND OG FOLK.

2) IN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THESE MEETINGS AND IN A PUBLIC ADDRESS IN COPENHAGEN AUGUST 27, DAVIS TALKED MAINLY ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNIST PARTY. AMONG OTHER
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THINGS, SHE SAID THE CPUSA FEELS THAT AFTER DECADES

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OF PERSECUTION IT IS NOW IN A "TOTALLY NEW SITUATION".
SHE DECLARED THAT THIS INVOLVED A LARGE INCREASE IN MEMBER-
SHIP, PARTICULARLY FROM MINORITY GROUPS. DAVIS STATED THAT
SHE HAD BECOME A COMMUNIST BECAUSE THE CPUSA WAS THE ONLY
ORGANIZATION WHICH HAD A PROGRAM ADEQUATE FOR THE
REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN THE U.S.

3) COMMENT: DAVIS' PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION WITH THE DANISH
COMMUNIST PARTY MAY WELL HAVE BEEN A TACTICAL MISTAKE. THE
FIRST WOMEN'S FESTIVAL IN 1974 WAS CLEARLY A MAJOR EVENT
ON THE WOMEN'S LIBERATION FRONT. THIS YEAR THE MORE
SOCIALIST, POLITICALLY-LEFTIST CHARACTER OF THE FESTIVAL
ALIENATED MANY SIGNIFICANT WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS. DAVIS'
COMMUNIST PARTY CONNECTS HAVE EMPHASIZED THE DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND NON-SOCIALIST DANISH WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS
AND WILL TEND TO MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THEIR COOPERATION
IN FUTURE ACTIVITY.
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